

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-20 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 EB-11 DRC-01

INR-10 RSC-01 /089 W

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P 111649Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2729

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EUR/WE FOR DIRECTOR VINE FROM AMBASSADOR GOULD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (VAN VOLLENHOVEN, PETER)

SUBJECT: PROPOSED VISIT TO ALASKA BY PETER VAN VOLLENHOVEN

1. PETER VAN VOLLENHOVEN, HUSBAND OF PRINCESS MARGRIET AND AN ENTHUSIASTIC FRIEND OF THE UNITED STATES, HAS DISCUSSED WITH DCM HIS INTEREST IN VISITING ALASKA TO ATTEND THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP OF HUSKY RACING, WHICH HE UNDERSTANDS WILL BE HELD IN ANCHORAGE, FEBRUARY 16-17. VAN VOLLENHOVEN, A HUSKY OWNER, AND FANCIER WANTS TO CAPITALIZE ON THE OCCASION TO PRODUCE A DOCUMENTARY FILM COVERING NOT ONLY THE HUSKY COMPETITION BUT ALSO A SYNOPSIS OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND ACTIVITIES OF THE STATE OF ALASKA INCLUDING FOR EXAMPLE AN INTERVIEW WITH THE GOVERNOR, FOOTAGE ON NATIONAL PARKS, THE NORTHERN SLOPE, ETC.

2. VAN VOLLENHOVEN HAS THE O.K. IN PRINCIPLE OF VAN HILLO (PROTESTANT TV STATION NCRV) WHOM VAN VOLLENHOVEN DESCRIBES AS THE BEST TV DOCUMENTARY PRODUCER IN THE COUNTRY. (VAN HILLO PRODUCED A FIRST-CALL FILM ON QUEEN JULIANA'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY LAST SEPTEMBER). VAN VOLLENHOVEN DESCRIBES THE MAJOR PURPOSES OF THE FILM AS PUTTING ALASKA ON THE MAP FOR THE DUTCH AUDIENCE, STIMULATING INTEREST IN DUTCH TOURISM TO ALASKA AND GENERATING FURTHER UNDERSTANDING OF AND GOOD WILL TOWARD THE UNITED STATES. HE

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IS THINKING OF A PARTY OF 4 OR 5 (VAN HILLO, HIMSELF,

AND 2 OR 3 OTHER NCRV STAFF) PLUS POSSIBLY PRINCESS MARGRIET IF SUITABLE ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE MADE. HE WOULD PLAN TO ARRIVE IN ALASKA ON FEBRUARY 14 AND AFTER ATTENDING AND FILMING THE HUSKY CHAMPIONSHIP WOULD LIKE TO TRAVEL TO OTHER PARTS OF THE STATE TO COMPLETE HIS DOCUMENTARY, RETURNING TO THE NETHERLANDS AROUND FEBRUARY 21. HE ADDED THAT KLM, FOR WHOM VAN VOLLENHOVEN WORKS AS AN ADVISOR, WANTS TO SUPPORT THE PROJECT AND IS PLANNING TO HAVE ONE OF ITS HOSTESSES AWARD A MEDAL IN THE HUSKY CHAMPIONSHIP.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE CONTACT GOVERNOR OF ALASKA'S OFFICE TO CONFIRM DATES AND PLACE OF HUSKY CHAMPIONSHIP AND CONVEY INTEREST OF PETER VAN VOLLENHOVEN TO DO TV DOCUMENTARY AS DESCRIBED ABOVE WITH COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE OF ALASKA AUTHORITIES. YOU CAN SAY THAT EMBASSY SUPPORTS VAN VOLLENHOVEN'S VISIT AND TV PROJECT AND HOPES THAT ALASKA WILL RESPOND POSITIVELY TO HIS INTEREST. VAN VOLLENHOVEN WANTS VERY MUCH FOR THE DOCUMENTARY TO REDOUND TO THE BENEFIT OF US-DUTCH RELATIONS AND TO ENCOURAGE HIS COMPATRIOTS TO TAKE A HOLIDAY IN ALASKA. HIS RECENT VISITS TO THE UNITED STATES - BY HIMSELF IN AUGUST 1973 AND WITH HIS WIFE IN SEPTEMBER 1972 - INSPIRE CONFIDENCE IN HIS ABILITY TO DELIVER ON THE TWO BASIC OBJECTIVES, AS HE CONCEIVES THEM, OF HIS ALASKAN PROJECT.

4. DCM AND I WILL BE MEETING VAN VOLLENHOVEN ON JANUARY 17 FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION. WE WOULD APPRECIATE A REACTION FROM THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE, WHICH WE HOPE WILL BE ENCOURAGING, TOGETHER WITH ANY FACTUAL INFORMATION OR SUGGESTIONS WHICH WILL BE HELPFUL IN PLANNING VAN VOLLENHOVEN'S VISIT AND MAKING THE NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS FOR HIS TV DOCUMENTARY PROJECT.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974THEHA00168
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: THE HAGUE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740146/aaaabrlu.tel
Line Count: 96
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 MAY 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <23 MAY 2002 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PROPOSED VISIT TO ALASKA BY PETER VAN VOLLENHOVEN
TAGS: OVIP, (VAN VOLLENHOVEN, PETER)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005